

PRIMARY SOURCES FOR BAGGAGE GUARD, WAGONERS

“whilst the Women are forbid any longer under any License at all to ride in the Waggon, and the Officers are earnestly call'd upon to permit no more than are absolutely necessary & such as are actually useful to follow the Army”¹

“After Orders. The following proportion of tents is allowed the army upon the next march—vizt—One soldier's tent for the field Officers of each regiment. One ditto for every four Commissioned officers. One do for eight Serjeants, Drums or fifes. One do for eight privates. The Brigadiers to have returns made out, and the above proportion of tents taken for their brigades, and one waggon for every fifty tents, and no more—No woman under any pretence whatsoever to go with the army, but to follow the baggage—The soldiers are to carry their camp kettles, which, if the army should come to action, are to be put into waggons with the tents. The invalids, under a good subaltern, are to guard the tents of each brigade.”²

“To George Washington from Major General John Armstrong, 19 December 1777,” Founders Online, National Archives, last modified June 13, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-12-02-0577>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 12, 26 October 1777–?25 December 1777, ed. Frank E. Grizzard, Jr. and David R. Hoth. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2002, pp. 632–634.]

“General Orders, 26 December 1777,” Founders Online, National Archives, last modified June 13, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0001>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, 26 December 1777–28 February 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003, pp. 1–2.]

“As it does not require military men to discharge the duties of Commissaries, Forage Masters and Waggon Masters, who are also looked upon as the money making part of the army, no rank should be allowed to any of them, nor indeed to any in the departments merely of a civil nature. Neither is it, in my opinion proper, though it may seem a trivial and inconsequential circumstance, that they should wear the established uniforms of the army, which ought to be considered as a badge of military distinction.

[...]

Joseph Thornburgh apparently had ceased serving as wagon master general in December 1777. James Thompson became acting wagon master general in his place, and Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene elevated Thompson to head the office after Greene became quartermaster general in March 1778 (see Risch, *Supplying Washington's Army*, 74–75). The camp committee wrote Congress on 12 Feb. about the shortage of proper transport, lamenting that ‘Almost every Species of Camp Transportation is now perform'd by the Men, who without a Murmur patiently yoke themselves to little Carriages of their own making, or load their Wood & Provisions on their Backs’ (DNA:PCC, item 33).”³

¹ George Weedon, “28 August 1777,” *Valley Forge orderly book of General George Weedon of the Continental Army under command of Genl. George Washington, in the campaign of -8, describing the events of the Battles of Brandywine, Warren Tavern, Germantown, and Whitemarsh, and of the camps at Neshaminy, Wilmington, Pennypacker's Mills, Skippack, Whitemarsh, & Valley Forge* (New York, Dodd, Mead, 1902), 25. Web. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/loc.ark:/13960/t7vm51z30>.

² “General Orders, 13 September 1777,” Founders Online, National Archives, last modified June 13, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-11-02-0203>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 11, 19 August 1777–25 October 1777, ed. Philander D. Chase and Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2001, pp. 211–213.]

³ “From George Washington to a Continental Congress Camp Committee, 29 January 1778,” Founders Online, National Archives, last modified June 13, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0335>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, 26 December 1777–28 February 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003, pp. 376–409.]

"The Commander in Chief therefore orders that all private Waggon and horses annexed either to Regiments or employed by Brigade Commissaries shall be delivered up on Monday and Tuesday next to the Quarter Master General at the Field next beyond the Adjutant General's Office [...]."⁴

Read Also:

Harry M. Ward, *Washington's Enforcers: Policing the Continental Army* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2006), 113-15.

⁴ "General Orders, 18 January 1778," Founders Online, National Archives, last modified June 13, 2018, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0224>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, 26 December 1777–28 February 1778, ed. Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003, pp. 259–261.]